

What is claimed:

1. An apparatus for assisting in the replacement of a windshield, the apparatus comprising:

at least one window support assembly comprising;

a support member having a first end, a second end and a passageway extending there between; and

a connector disposable within the passageway of the support member, a distal end portion of the connector extending outwardly from the second end of the support member for selectively connecting the at least one support assembly to a portion of a frame of the vehicle located in a pinch weld of the vehicle such that the support member is engagable with a lower edge of a windshield for supporting the windshield during positioning of the windshield in a window frame of the vehicle and for stabilizing the windshield within the window frame of the vehicle while the windshield is bondingly connected thereto.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support member is provided with a circular cross section.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the connector is further characterized as having a head portion on a proximal end of the connector, the head portion having a diameter greater than the diameter of the support member such that, in an assembled position, a peripheral portion of the head portion of the connector cooperates with first end of the

support member to provide a ledge for stabilizing the replacement windshield on the support member.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the support member is fabricated of a substantially non-resilient, corrosion resistant material, and wherein the connector is a self-tapping screw, the self-tapping screw threadably disposed through the passageway of the support member such that the self-tapping screw is connected to the support member.

5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the support member is provided with a substantially circular cross-sectional configuration having a length of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, a diameter of about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch and wherein the passageway extending there through is substantially centrally disposed and has a diameter of about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the self-tapping screw has a length of about 1 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the head portion of the self-tapping screw has a diameter of about  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch.

8. A method for installing a replacement windshield comprising the steps of:  
removing wiper blades of the vehicle;  
removing cowling disposed substantially adjacent a lower edge of a damaged windshield ;

providing at least one support assembly comprising a support member and a connector, the support member having a first end, a second end and a passageway extending there between, the connector disposable within the passageway of the support member such that a distal end portion of the connector extends outwardly from the second end of the support member; connecting the at least one windshield support assembly to a portion of a frame of the vehicle located in a pinch weld of the vehicle via the distal end portion of the connector such that the support member is aligned with a lower edge of the damaged windshield;

removing the damaged windshield;

cleaning the window frame of the vehicle to remove residual sealant;

applying an effective amount of a sealant to a perimeter portion of at least one of a lower side of a replacement windshield and the window frame;

positioning the replacement windshield on the at least one support assembly;

moving the replacement windshield into engagement with the window frame while the windshield remains supported on the at least one support assembly and maintaining the replacement windshield on the at least one support assembly for a period of time effective to permit the sealant to cure and thereby provide a fluid-tight seal between the replacement window and the window frame;

disconnecting and removing the at least one windshield support assembly from the portion of a frame of the vehicle located in the pinch weld of the vehicle;

replacing the cowling; and

reconnecting the wiper blades.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein at least two spatially disposed windshield support assemblies are connected to the portion of the frame of the vehicle located in the pinch weld of the vehicle.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein each of the support members of the at least two windshield support assemblies is provided with a circular cross section.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein each of the connectors of the at least two windshield support assemblies is further characterized as having a head portion on a proximal end thereof, the head portion having a diameter greater than the diameter of the support member such that, in an assembled position, a peripheral portion of the head portion of the connector cooperates with an outer surface of the support member to create a support ledge for assisting in stabilizing the replacement windshield on the support members.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein each of the support members of the at least two windshield support assemblies is fabricated of a substantially non-resilient, corrosion resistant material, and wherein the connector of each of the at least two windshield support assemblies is a self-tapping screw, one self-tapping screw threadably disposed through each of the passageways of the support members such that the self-tapping screws are connected to the support members.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein each support member of the at least two windshield support assemblies is provided with a substantially cylindrical configuration having a length of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, a diameter of about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch and wherein the passageway extending there through is substantially centrally disposed and has a diameter of about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the self-tapping screw of each of the at least two windshield support assemblies has a length of about 1 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inches.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the head of the self-tapping screw of each of the at least two windshield support assemblies has a diameter of about  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch.